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FORMAL INTERPRETATION 10-03

DOCUMENT: 2007 Kentucky Residential Code

SUBJECT: Section AG 105.2/AG105.3.1

QUESTION: *"Can the requirement in AG105.3.1 "The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance ASTM F1346..." be deemed to satisfy the pool barrier requirement for an outdoor in-ground swimming pool and thereby if you install a powered safety cover in compliance ASTM F1346 over your outdoor in-ground pool can you completely eliminate the requirements for a pool barrier as defined in AG105.2 by subsection numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8-1, and 8-2?"*

ANSWER: No

COMMENTARY: Your question implies that the desire is to utilize a powered pool cover in lieu of the barrier surrounding the pool. To understand the pool barrier requirements, realize that Kentucky modified sections AG 105.2 and AG 105.3 as these sections read in the 2006 International Residential Code. The Kentucky change to AG105.2 deleted the language in item 9 completely and added language (items 1, 2 and 3) to section AG 105.3. By deleting the language in item 9 of AG 105.2 a pool safety cover is not permitted as any part of an outdoor pool enclosure. Item 9 under the 2006 International Building Code is not intended to replace the requirement for a barrier surrounding any outdoor pool; it is simply an option to be used when the wall of a dwelling serves as one of the barrier walls for the pool. No where in the code does it allow the powered pool cover to replace the physical barrier; walls, fencing or combination of vertical and horizontal members spaced per code.

Therefore, under the 2007 Kentucky Building Code, a powered pool cover is not permitted as part of the barrier surrounding an outdoor swimming pool in any situation.

For indoor swimming pools, the swimming pool shall be surrounded by walls or fencing as specified in Section AG105.2 and a powered pool cover is only permitted as part of a the barrier in lieu of providing an alarm at the door in the wall between the dwelling unit and pool room or self-closing doors with self-latching devices.


George E. Mann
Deputy Commissioner

6-9-2010
Date